



February 20, 2022

The Honourable Bill Blair
President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and
Minister of Emergency Preparedness
and
The Honourable Marco E.L. Mendicino
Minister of Public Safety

Dear Minister Blair and Minister Mendicino:

On behalf of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), I am writing to express our association's support for the *Emergencies Act*, *Emergency Measures Regulations* and *Emergency Economic Measures Order*.

We believe that the authorities under this legislation have been useful in helping us resolve the threats to public safety and disorder, including in our national capital of Ottawa. In our view, the *Emergencies Act* provides the appropriate authorities and powers for police services to ensure the rule of law and the safety of citizens. This has been our experience, particularly during the "Freedom Convoy 2022" and the threat to public safety it has posed to communities across the nation.

We want to be clear that police leaders in Ontario support the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed to all Canadians. Our police officers have worked incredibly hard in dealing with the current protests to ensure the safety of citizens living and working in Ontario. Unfortunately, the actions of convoy protesters (particularly in the City of Ottawa) have moved beyond peaceful protests to the point where they pose a serious threat to the public's safety and civil order.

The *Emergencies Act* has helped ensure our front-line police officers and commanders have the necessary legislative authority to deal with the unlawful and dangerous protests we have seen across our province.

The OACP understands that the activation of this legislation includes a mandatory review. We fully support this aspect of the legislation and look forward to participating in the review to ensure that police services are able to continue working in a fair and impartial manner in support of public safety in Ontario.

We thank our front-line police officers and police commanders who have worked tirelessly to manage these threats to public safety and civil order with the goal of resolving the various protests across Ontario and Canada peacefully while ensuring public safety for all citizens.

Sincerely,



Gary Conn, M.O.M.
Chief of Police, Chatham-Kent Police Service
President, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police

- c. The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Candice Bergen, Interim Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada
Yves-François Blanchet, Leader, Bloc Québécois
Jagmeet Singh, Leader, New Democratic Party
Amita Kuttner, Interim Leader, Green Party of Canada
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General for the Province of Ontario
The Honourable Douglas Downey, Attorney General for the Province of Ontario
Commissioner Brenda Lucki, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Interim Chief Steve Bell, Ottawa Police Service
OACP Board of Directors
Commissioner Thomas Carrique, Ontario Provincial Police and Ontario Director, CACP
Chief Paul Pedersen, Greater Sudbury Police Service and Ontario Director, CACP

Supporting the Ontario Law Enforcement Torch Run For Special Olympics

